

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were originally filed in this application. In the outstanding Office Action, the examiner has rejected all 15 claims. By way of this response, claims 1, 9, 10, and 12 have been amended. In addition, dependent claims 16 -19 have been added.

First, the drawings were rejected for not having a proper reference numeral for the "threaded fastener", and the specification was objected to for having the same reference numeral "47" for two elements. As shown in the previous sections, the drawings and specification have been amended to properly identify and correspond to the "threaded fastener 46" in the specification to the drawings.

Claims 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 828,216 ("*Kieren*"). Claim 9, as amended, recites a bore "sized to receive the throttling element". *Kieren* fails to disclose a bore that is sized to receive the throttling element, as it is designed only to receive the valve stem. Therefore, *Kieren* does not disclose each and every element of the claim and fails to anticipate the rejected claims.

In addition, claim 9 would not be obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over *Kieren* in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,762,685 ("*Curran*"). Claim 9 further recites "the housing first end including a reduced diameter section sized to engage and guide an exterior surface of the throttling element." Neither *Kieren* nor *Curran* teach or suggest a seat ring assembly with a first end having a reduced diameter to engage and guide a throttling element. The seat ring assembly of *Kieren* is not sized to receive the valve plug at either end. In *Curran*, although the bore is large enough to receive the throttling element, the reduced diameter does not directly engage and direct the throttling element, having instead a central element designed to engage the valve stem. Because the combination of *Kieren* and *Curran* fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claim, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, the rejection of independent claim 9, as well as its dependent claims, should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8, 10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over *Kieren* in view of *Curran*. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 recites a "seat ring assembly further including a bore for receiving the valve plug in the first end and a bushing disposed within the first end." Neither *Kieren* nor *Curran* teaches or suggests a bore for receiving a valve plug in the first end and a bushing disposed in the first end. The Office

Action states that "[r]egarding the bushing, it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the control valve of having a stem guide Kieren by adding a bushing to the first end of the seat ring assembly as taught by Curran in order for the valve stem to act directly on the bushing." Claim 1, however, recites a bushing in the first end, which in turn is able to receive the valve plug rather than the valve stem, as is disclosed in *Curran*. Because the combination of *Kieren* and *Curran* fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent claim 1, the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Claim 12, as amended, recites a "seat ring assembly having a first end defining a reduced diameter section sized to engage and guide an exterior surface of a throttling element." Because neither *Kieren* nor *Curran* teach or suggest a reduced diameter section acting on a throttling element rather than a valve stem, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, the rejection of independent claim 12 and its dependent claims should be withdrawn.


In view of the above discussion, applicant submits that each of the presently pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. It is believed that no fees are necessary in connection with the present Amendment. However, in the event that any fees are due, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN, & BORUN LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300

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By:



Matthias Abrell
Reg. No.: 47,377
Attorney for Applicants

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The reference numerals in Figure 1 have been amended to properly identify the threads 46. Specifically one of the reference numerals 47 was changed to 46. No new matter has been added. A "Replacement Sheet" including these changes is enclosed herewith.